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Application No. 09/878,165

Attorney Dkt. No: 30015420-2US (1509-186)

Amendments to the Claims:**BEST AVAILABLE COPY**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously presented) A computer entity comprising:
 - at least one data processor;
 - a data storage device;
 - a user interface;
 - at least one operating system for controlling operation of said computer entity;
 - first license key data, said first license key data allowing partitioning of said data storage device to provide a first amount of licensed data storage capacity, wherein said first amount of data storage capacity is only lower than the total amount of data storage capacity of said data storage device, said license key data comprising upgrade flag data, said upgrade flag data determining whether said partitioned data storage capacity can be increased; and
 - a partition size control component configured to read said upgrade flag data and for determining whether an upgrade of said license data storage capacity can occur.
2. (Previously presented) The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:
 - a component for detecting said upgrade flag data; and
 - a component for storing upgrade license key data on said data storage device.
3. (Previously presented) The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:
 - a component for checking the validity of an upgrade license key data.

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4. (Previously presented) The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:

a component for checking whether existing upgrade license key data is already stored on said data storage device.

5. (Previously presented) The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:

a component for reading a licensed upgrade data storage capacity allowed by upgrade license key data.

6. (Previously presented) The computer entity as claimed in claim 1, wherein said partition size control component comprises:

a component for comparing whether existing license key data stored on said data storage device allows a capacity upgrade greater than new upgrade capacity license key data requested to be entered onto said data storage device.

7. (Previously presented) A method of controlling an amount of licensed functionality provided by a computer entity by controlling a licensed partition size, said computer entity comprising at least one data processor, a data storage device, a user interface, and at least one operating system for controlling operation of said computer entity, said method comprising the steps of:

storing first license key data, said first license key data allowing partitioning of said data storage device to provide a first amount of data storage capacity, wherein said first amount of data storage capacity is only lower than the total amount of data storage capacity of said data storage device, said license key data comprising upgrade flag data, said upgrade flag data determining whether said license data storage capacity can be increased; and

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determining whether an upgrade of said licensed data storage capacity can occur by reading said upgrade flag data.

8. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said step of determining whether an upgrade of capacity can occur comprises:

detecting said upgrade flag data; and

storing upgrade license key data on said data storage device.

9. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, wherein said first license key data is stored in a data storage area outside a partition used for storing said operating system and outside said allowed partition providing said first amount of data storage capacity.

10. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the step of:

checking the validity of upgrade license key data by comparing unique identifier data comprising said upgrade license key data with unique identifier data read from a component of said computer entity.

11. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 7, further comprising the steps of:

receiving new upgrade license key data requested to be entered onto said data storage device;

checking whether existing upgrade license key data is already stored on said data storage device;

and

if existing upgrade license key data is already stored on said data storage device, comparing whether said existing license key data allows a capacity upgrade greater than a new upgrade capacity specified by said new upgrade license key data requested to be entered onto said data storage device.

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12. (Previously presented) A method of providing a functionality upgrade to a computer entity after manufacture, said method comprising the steps of:

storing data uniquely describing said computer entity in a database;
receiving a request to modify the data storage capacity of said computer entity;
checking from said data stored in said database whether said computer entity is capable of modification of said data storage capacity; and

if said data in said database describes said plurality of computer entity as being capable of modification of data storage capacity, then providing upgrade license key data for enabling modification of said data storage capacity of said computer entity.

13. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, wherein said upgrade license key data comprises:

data uniquely identifying a computer entity to which said upgrade license key data applies;
data defining an amount of data storage capacity which said computer entity can access for use by applications.

14. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 12, further comprising the step of:
storing data in said database describing a licensed data storage capacity of said computer entity.

15. (Cancelled)

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) A method of operating a computer entity for applying a modification of licensed functionality provided by said computer entity, said computer entity comprising at least one operating system and a data storage device, said method comprising the steps of:

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providing a first level of data storage capacity according to first license data stored on a disk sector of said data storage device inaccessible to said operating system; and

modifying said licensed first level of data storage capacity provided by said computer entity according to second license data stored on said data storage device.

18. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

comparing first unique identifier data stored on said computer entity and uniquely identifying said computer entity with second unique identifier data comprising said second license data; and

if said first and second identifier data correspond, then permitting modification of said data storage capacity provided by said computer entity according to said data stored as second license data.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

determining the present configuration of said data storage device;

comparing said present configuration of said data storage device with a licensed configuration described by data comprising said second license data;

if a match is found between said present configuration and said licensed configuration, then allowing said computer entity to operate.

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21. (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, further comprising the steps of:

determining the present configuration of said data storage device;
comparing said present configuration of said data storage device with a licensed configuration described by data comprising said second license data; and

if said present configuration of said data storage device does not match said licensed configuration of said data storage device, then prohibiting further boot procedures of said computer entity and displaying an error condition.

22. (Previously presented) A method of increasing the amount of accessible storage space of a computer memory, the memory prior to performance of the method being accessible to only a portion of the total storage space, the method comprising the steps of:

obtaining a license for accessing additional storage space of the computer memory;
supplying the obtained license as an input to a computer including the memory; and
increasing the amount of accessible storage space of the computer memory by responding to the obtained license being supplied as an input.

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